

REVEREND JOSEPH DARBY

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to have had my minister and good friend, Reverend Joseph Darby, deliver this morning's opening prayer. I invited Reverend Darby to join us this morning from Morris Brown AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, because I knew from personal experience that he would provide an inspirational blessing that will be very relevant to the times in which we live.

I told him, as we were about to enter the Chamber, that he had lucked out this morning. That because of the subsequent meeting of the former members, he would get to pray to and be greeted by a number of warm bodies, which is not always the case with the guest chaplain.

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Reverend Darby is a fourth-generation minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church with twenty-five years of pastoral experience. His career has been marked by selfless service to others that comes not only from his dedication to the ministry, but his innate passion and compassion.

Reverend Darby has been a vocal advocate for so many who do not have a voice in our society. He has stood up for his beliefs in the face of great obstacles. My father, a minister himself, taught me the strength of David as he faced Goliath and Daniel as he entered the lions' den. Reverend Darby has demonstrated that same strength drawn from his faith in his daily life, and as a result, his accomplishments are great.

He is presently a Board Member for the Reid House of Christian Service and the Family Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit's Drug Court Program, a member of the State Superintendent of Education's African-American Achievement Committee, the Racial/Cultural Advisory Council of the South Carolina School Boards Association, The Long Range Planning Subcommittee of the South Carolina Educational Oversight Committee; South Carolina Educational Television's Advisory Committee for African-American Programming; The Board of Directors of the Daniel J. Jenkins Institute for Children, and is First Vice-President of the South Carolina Conference of Branches of the NAACP. Reverend Darby is First Vice-President of the Charleston A.M.E. and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliances, Chairman of the P.A.S.T.O.R.S. Housing Initiative, and Chairman of the South Carolina Coalition of Black Church Leaders, an Affiliate of the Congress of National Black Churches.

Reverend Darby's honors and awards include South Carolina Business Vision magazine's 1997 South Carolina's 25 most influential African-Americans award, the 1999 South Carolina Christian Action Council's Howard G. McClain Christian Action in Public Policy Award, the 1999 NAACP Southeast Region Medgar W. Evers Leadership Award, the 2001 MOJA Festival Religious Achievement Award, and the 2001 Excellence in Religion award from the S.C. Mechanism of the National Council of Negro Women. He was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in July 2002.

Reverend Darby is married to the former Mary M. Bright of Walterboro, South Carolina, a career educator. They have two sons—Jason Christopher, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Allen University, and Jeremy Christian who attends West Ashley High School.

Reverend Darby is a true leader in South Carolina both within and outside the church community, and I wanted to share his extraordinary talents with you. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in welcoming Reverend Joseph Darby to the U.S. House of Representatives.

MARKING PASTOR GEORGE  
GRACE'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE FIRST BIBLE BAPTIST  
CHURCH

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Pastor George P. Grace for his 20 years of service to the First Bible Baptist Church and his numerous contributions to the citizens of Rochester, New York. For two decades, he has faithfully led and continues to lead the First Bible Baptist Church and its congregation, earning a well-deserved reputation as a respected and trusted community leader.

Under his leadership, the First Bible Baptist Church has promoted good citizenship and voter awareness through the church's annual Political Candidates' Night. The Grace and Truth Athletics Ministry was initiated to provide a place for the youth of this community to experience sports so they may grow and learn, and every year this draws thousands from local communities, including those who are not a member of the church. Pastor Grace also has a namesake event, the Thanksgiving Day "Race with Grace," which has become a certified national 10K, having 1,000 participants last Thanksgiving Day.

The Pastor has found much success and continued growth in the athletics ministries. He developed the Grace and Truth Sportspark, whose soccer fields are home to the Junior Rhinos, the Greece Buccaneers, and other community soccer leagues. The church is hoping to complete the Sportspark in the near future, with lighted baseball and softball fields. The Grace and Truth Athletics Ministry has traveled throughout the world ministering to the world's youth through soccer.

Pastor Grace sits as a Regional Vice-President of Trinity Baptist College, Jacksonville, Florida, and he is a member of the Board of Trustees of Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. He and his wife Penny have raised their 5 children in Rochester and they now have one Grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting Pastor George Grace as he marks 20 years of service to the First Bible Baptist Church. His love for his fellow man is an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KAROL  
CORBIN WALKER**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Ms. Karol Corbin Walker as she is sworn in as the first African American President of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Completing an undergraduate degree at New Jersey City University, Ms. Walker went on to pursue her law degree from my alma mater, Seton Hall University. Through her many positions within the law community, Ms. Walker has become the first African American woman to attain Partner status at any major New Jersey law firm, representing clients in commercial, employment, environmental, hazardous waste, insurance coverage, toxic tort and product liability matters. An outstanding litigator, Ms. Walker has been the recipient of many awards and been recognized by many organizations including Business News New Jersey which recognized her as one of New Jersey's Top 20 African American Business People.

A former trustee of the Essex County Bar Association and President of the Garden State Bar Association, Ms. Walker is also a member of the Morris County Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey.

In addition to her many accomplishments as a lawyer, Ms. Walker also takes time out of her busy schedule to give back to her community. Frequently speaking at many grade schools, high schools, and colleges, Ms. Walker is a shining example to our nation's youth of the success that can be reached if they follow their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and a privilege to rise today to recognize Ms. Karol Corbin Walker and her innumerable contributions to not only my district but to the state of New Jersey. I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in wishing her congratulations on this momentous occasion and in wishing her the very best for the future.

HONORING GAIL UILKEMA

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great educator and community leader, Dr. Gail Uilkema, for her 16 years of service to the community. In May of 2003, Dr. Uilkema will retire as Superintendent of the Piedmont Unified School District in California.

In 2002, Gail Uilkema was selected as the National Superintendent of the Year. Previously, she was superintendent in the Orinda Union School District, Assistant Superintendent in the Reed Union School District, and principal/teacher in California, Alabama, and England. Dr. Uilkema is President of Suburban School Superintendents.

Dr. Uilkema has inspired her East Bay community to contribute financial support for the